

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were originally filed in the present application. Claims 1-9 were subsequently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 26-34 were subsequently added. Currently, claims 25, 30 and 31 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 35-37 are added. Accordingly, claims 10-24, 26-29, and 32-37 are currently pending in the present application.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication of allowance of claims 10-24, 26-29, and 32-34, and the allowability of previously-pending claims 30 and 31.

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Previously-pending claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Kaeriyama in view of Dessaux. However, the Examiner also indicated that previously-pending claims 30 and 31, which both depend from claim 25, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

Consequently, claim 30 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 25, and is introduced herein as new claim 35. Similarly, claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 25, and is introduced herein as new claim 37. Consequently, it is believed that new claims 35 and 37 are allowable over the combination of Kaeriyama and Dessaux in view of the Examiner's indication of the allowability of previously-pending claims 30 and 31.

Conclusion

It is believed that all matters set forth in the Final Office Action have been addressed, and that all of claims 10-24, 26-29, and 32-37 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and an early indication of the allowability of the claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem that an interview with Applicant's undersigned attorney would expedite consideration, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,



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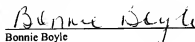
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